

Ms. Wendy Dixon, EIS Program Manager  
 U.S. Department of Energy  
 Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management  
 Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office  
 P.O. Box 30307, M/S 010  
 North Las Vegas, NV 89036-0307

RECEIVED

FEB 11 2000

February 7, 2000

Re: YUCCA MOUNTAIN DRAFT EIS. PUBLIC COMMENT

Dear Ms. Dixon:

1... Please include this correspondence as part of the official agency record of proceedings on the Yucca Mountain Draft EIS. As my comments of February 1, indicated democratic process is not being implemented in local decision-making process. In fact, and contrary to democratic process, decisions are being made locally and regionally which "promote" transportation infrastructure required for DOE programmatic transportation of "legacy" radioactive (High-Level Low-Level, and Mixed) waste through and to the Southern Ohio/Kentucky region behind closed doors out of public view with no opportunity for "in-put" from the public. The people are left out of the process so completely that decisions which have already been made by elected local officials and "planners" have yet to be announced to the people of Brown County of Ohio. Further information from local media sources (when combined) indicates how and when decisions are made, and when the public is invited to "open" meetings to be informed--long after the fact--what those decisions actually were under considerable pretext and ruse that the public had any "in-put." "Public participation" would more appropriately be described as deception perpetrated upon the public after-the-fact by 'info-mercials' released to local media. 'open' meetings to which the general public is invited to attend to be informed of what has already been decided (in contrast to the actual decision-making meetings which have already been held out of public scrutiny and view).

1 cont. ☐ HOW decisions are made is important in a democracy, even if those decisions are reasonable and sound. ☐ Decision made by the Hamilton County Commissioners to contribute \$2 Million taxpayer dollars to drive pilings for a deck to support a park over Fort Washington Way highway project was not nearly as controversial as the manner by which the board of commissioners reached their decision. On Monday the board went into executive session and announced their 'intentions'. Two days later--"On Wednesday, the commissioners voted in public to make official what they had already announced Monday." (Attachment I, "Democracy Flowers Best In Sunlight," THE CINCINNATI ENQUIRER, 2/4/00, pg. C-1.) According to columnist Cliff Radel:

The way I read Ohio's Open Meetings Act, commissioners can't decide an issue like this in private and then vote on it later in public.

Public issues must be discussed in public first and be open to public debate.

1 cont. ☐ Decision-making behind closed doors under pretense of Executive Session exclusion of the public and media, as Mr. Radel points out, is always tacky, and sometimes illegal. Executive session is allowed by law during discussions involving personnel matters, purchase of property, court actions, collective bargaining, matters kept confidential under federal, state, and local statutes, and security arrangements.

For example, DOE transport of HLRW in general has not been kept confidential by DOE, including alternate routes and modes of transport.

1 cont.

But, specific notices by DOE of day/time of actual route, cargo manifest, and security measures to be implemented to local officials, including county commissioners and local law enforcement, would seem to appropriately fall under discussions held under Ohio's Executive Session exemption to Open Meeting Law.

Brown County land-use planning, however, would not seem to fit matters to be kept confidential and/or secret for reasons of national security as defined in Ohio's Open Meeting and Public Records Acts. On the contrary, citizen/public "in-put" is legally required to be part of the decision-making process (involvement of state and federal dollars). Considerable deception (by some) and gullibility (by the public) is required in order to keep "the total project" secret from the public while, at the same time, considering opinions and views of the public!

Former Director of the Brown County Department of Development published a survey requesting opinions in local newspapers last year (April/May 1999). Results of that survey have never been circulated in local media or publicly noted as being available for review, to my knowledge. In fact, during the "open" meeting and "surveying" process, the Brown County Board of Commissioners fired then Brown County Director of Economic Development, Craig Thompson and released their letter of termination of his employment to local newspapers. Current Director of Brown County Economic Development, Mike Miller (who was then Mayor of Georgetown, OH) was hired by the commissioners to replace Thompson. One public meeting had been held by Thompson (morning session) just before his employment was terminated. At that meeting which I attended, Thompson was requested to schedule additional meetings during evening hours in order to allow more members of the general public to attend.

The process now being described as re-tracing the steps of the former Director of Brown County Department of Development omits the "results" of the former survey which was to be used to develop a strategic plan for economic development in the county. See Attachment II, "Economic Development Surveys Mailed," THE NEWS DEMOCRAT, 2/3/00, pg. A-1, and Attachment III, "County Sends Surveys To Residents This Week," THE BROWN COUNTY PRESS, 1/30/00, pg. A-1. Note that both articles indicate 600 Brown County residents have been 'selected' by him to speak for all county residents on future land use and county-wide planning issues with quote from Mr. Miller (Attachment II):

'I want more input from the public,' Miller says.

It is highly improper, I believe, for Mr. Miller to use voter records to determine who is permitted to participate and to exclude all others not selected by him. Residents selected to participate (in decision-making process for the county) will receive their survey before Feb. 4, 2000. In democratic process--less (participation by citizens) is most definitely not more! Although, it is certainly being promoted as 'improving' in-put into the process.

Miller says that this survey of what Brown Countians want to see happen in the county is the beginning of a year-long process which will produce a plan responding to future development in the county.

'When we have the results of the survey a timetable for public meetings on these issues will be determined,' he said. (Attachment II)

The results of the first survey (taken in 1999) are omitted, as are the number of respondents completing 1999 survey. Mr. Miller implies that few responses would be anticipated by him from other survey distribution methods, but no actual number of respondents or responses received are not reported.

As further evidence of Brown County's re-inventing the process, Mayor of Manchester, Adams County of Ohio (which adjoins Brown County) reports:

. . . Remember that Community survey we filled out a year ago? This data has been analysed and now is available at the Clerk's Office as a 'Report to the Community.' START stands for Small Town Assessment and Readiness Techniques. It is a part of the Ohio Rural Enterprise Project. . . which encourages us to support small business in and around our community as a foundation for future growth.

The report addresses how to go about accomplishing the priority projects identified by citizens. The immediate goals are: 1. River related business development  
2. Youth programs and recreation. ("Manchester Matters," THE MANCHESTER SIGNAL, 2/3/00, A-1, Attachment IV.)

Apparently, Mr. Miller does not remember that county-wide survey his office distributed for Brown County residents to fill-out a year ago (or wants to forget about)! Note that the results of the survey are now available as a report to the community, interested citizens are informed where a copy is readily available and top two priorities are identified. The public is informed of how the process is being implemented to date, and what projects can reasonably be anticipated from immediate goals as indicated from last years survey. The contrast is rather obvious to "the process" being re-implemented in Brown County of Ohio where one suspects the survey results were not compatible with what is actually being planned, designed, and implemented. Public participation in the decision-making process (in a functioning democracy) cannot be added on later, de-facto!

One wonders what Brown County "in-put" is going to be included in the regional planning effort set to begin February 15, 2000 under the Ohio Department of Development Rural Revitalization Task Force. The Director of the Governor's Office of Appalachia (GOA) is "taking the lead" in close cooperation with the Executive Director of the Ohio Rural Partnership. Will information collected from 1999 county-wide survey be included or will the regional planning effort proceed in absence of "in-put" directly from local Brown County citizens who are being re-surveyed by random sampling, results and "open/public" (view) meetings to be held next year? Apparently, some "two-cents worth" of planning data is to be included in the process as it is currently occurring regionally, but from what source(s)? The point is obvious, again, "in-put" into the process must be put-in during the actual planning stages, not tacked on as after-thought after decisions have already been made. See Attachment V, RURAL REVITALIZATION TASK FORCE REGIONAL HEARING NOTICE.

Use (or misuse) of Executive Session privilege as private planning of public business is not unheard of, however, it is inappropriate--whether "tacky," "illegal," or both! Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission Winter 2000 newsletter provides insight into who in Brown County is, in fact, participating in the planning process:

#### MARCH 2000 FULL COMMISSION MEETING

Thanks to Brown County Commissioner Dale Reynolds and Brown County Economic Development Director Mike Miller for locating a site for the March 2000 Full Commission Dinner Meeting and Election of Officers. The meeting will be held March 23, 2000, at the Gateway Center, located on the Southern State Community College campus in Sardinia, on U.S. 62 north of S.R. 32.

The OVRDC Executive Committee will be meeting at the Gateway Center BEFORE THE FULL COMMISSION MEETING (emphasis added) on March 23. Meeting times and other information will be mailed to all OVRDC members in

February. (OVRDC QUARTERLY. NEWS OF THE OHIO VALLEY  
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION. Vol. 2 No. 4. Winter  
2000, pg. 4. Attachment VI.)

One wonders what "personnel," confidential, or secret matters are anticipated to be discussed in Executive Session just prior to election of OVRDC officers for the coming year. As Cliff Radel observed, since none of us have X-ray vision we'll probably never find out!

#### DIS-FUNCTIONAL DEMOCRATIC PROCESS IN BROWN COUNTY OF OHIO:

According to Brown County's current Economic Development Director, more "in-put" from residents of Brown County is required, which will result in re-start of the survey, analysis of results, 'open' meetings, and public involvement in future land-use decision-making process--a year long process to be completed in 2001. Important upcoming decisions, supposedly to be made by Brown County residents (or 600 selected residents), pertain to zoning and land-use designations/restrictions. On February 4, 2000--the same day the selected 600 were to RECEIVE their surveys--THE CINCINNATI ENQUIRER reported ". . . Brown County has a new 500-acre free trade zone." See Attachment VII. "Mission To Japan Piles Up Prospects." THE CINCINNATI ENQUIRER, 2/4/00, pg. A-1. Note that Cinergy's (electric utility generator) Director of Economic Development, David Smith, accompanied Ohio's Governor Bob Taft along with multiple banking/financial interests from the Cincinnati area. Does it appear that regional land use decisions have taken precedence over local public opinion in decision-making process for Brown County of Ohio?

Note as Mr. Miller stated on 2/1/00 during local radio interview, available workforce is of prime consideration. See Attachment V which indicates some of the state's highest unemployment rates are found in Southern Ohio east of Clermont County. See Attachment IV "Manchester Matters," which lists the reported unemployment rate in Adams and Brown Counties. Bluntly stated, Brown County future "land-use" planners have already designated 500 acre 'zones' regardless of what selected residents rank as priority items on survey number two. As indicated in Attachment I, democratic process cannot be implemented in some random, after-the-fact order. Seeking public "input" after decisions have already been made, and construction has begun reduces the process to sham.

- 2... DOE is considering alternate transportation routes for HLRW as well as legacy waste and "excess/surplus" nuclear weapons materials, during the same time frame that the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) is implementing an Appalachian Intermodal Transportation Study in three Local Development Districts (LDD's). One of these LDD's is OVRDC (which includes Pike County of Ohio, location of the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant). Project goal is to:

Increase industrial/commercial traffic along the Ohio River  
that will establish intermodal facilities and economic activities.  
Such growth can result in the creation of new jobs and provide  
a wide array of economic, social, and community benefits to the  
region.

Information goals from this study (funded through ARC) are to be used to provide "the necessary research and database for us (OVRDC) to seek more substantial funding through the U.S. Department of Transportation Intermodal Planning grant program." (OVRDC Winter 2000 Newsletter, pgs. 1 & 3., Attachment III.) Newsletter also indicates building partnerships with public and private entities representing air, highway, and rail modes of transportation that would be vital to any Ohio River focus activity is included in grant proposal submitted to ARC by OMEGA (Ohio Mid-Eastern Governments Association). Where does Mr. Miller, OVRDC, and ARC/DOE plan to include Brown County "people in-put" in this process, and when??? DOE cannot fail to include projects and their goals funded through ARC in agency decision-making process. What regulations and standards apply to transportation of radioactive materials by air mode? Are 'private entities' exempt from DOE, U.S. EPA, and NRC regulations, standards and applicable federal laws? Is DOE considering transport of HLRW, LLRW, Mixed

- 2 cont. Waste, and/or recycled or unrecycled "surplus nuclear materials" by air transport mode as alternative to threat of accident, incident, and sabotage posed by rail and/or truck transport modes?

Public participation in the election process is no less vital to a functional democracy than public access to open decision-making process. Voters require choices of qualified candidates to be placed before them. Candidates with no opponent in elections get "courtesy" votes which have nothing to do with election outcomes. Yet, candidates for the office of Sheriff of Brown County of Ohio were recently fired by the Sheriff immediately following the filing of their petitions to be placed upon the ballot. Although the Attorney General of Ohio has provided opinion that such firings are discretionary--not required--the practice of firing the opposition does, indeed appear heavy-handed, to say the least. See Attachments VIII and XIX which detail the firings by the Sheriff of Brown County because he had the authority (power) to do so.

According to local news media account of the recent firing of Emergency 911 employee by the Brown County Board of Commissioners, see Attachment X, the board had lost "trust and confidence" in their employee. One wonders what criteria the Brown County Board of Commissioners used to gauge satisfactory performance of "trust and confidence" among county employees (the Brown County Sheriff is, according to process, accountable to the commissioners). No such loss of "trust and confidence" resulted among the commissioners when the Sheriff fired his employees for declaring their candidacy for Sheriff. What criteria is being used (other than who is in power locally stays "in" and who is out of power stays "out") is undiscernible to me.

The uncanny and unsettling similarity of tone and temper between local officials statements (as apparent in multiple examples in attachments submitted) to recent statement by General Musharrah, Military Ruler of Pakistan in response to U.S. calls that he return his country to democracy requires consideration by DOE during EIS process. (He says) . . . he does not intend to leave power until he has achieved his goals." ("Military Ruler Wants Clinton to Visit Pakistan," THE CINCINNATI ENQUIRER, 4/4/00, pg. A-14, Attachment XI.)

- 3 In conclusion, the jobless/unemployment rate in the region of Southern Ohio (and Paducah, Ky.) is going to increase. About 22 percent of USEC's (United States Enrichment Corporation) workforce is scheduled for lay-off. USEC/DOE Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant located in Pike County of Ohio is the second largest employer in its congressional district. USEC/DOE Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant, Paducah, Ky. is the largest single employer in its congressional district. President of the Paper, Allied-Industrial, Chemical and Atomic Workers representing workers at Piketon, Ohio is quoted as saying:

'We will attempt to find transition work with the Department of Energy and seek an enhanced benefit package' for the people scheduled to lose their jobs beginning in July. ("USEC To Lay Off 850 Workers in Ohio, Kentucky," THE LEDGER INDEPENDENT, 4/4/00, pg. A-4, Attachment XII.)

What "transition" work is to be available from the Department of Energy has not yet been made public within the region. One hopes for clean-up funds for both Portsmouth and Paducah which employs union workers--rather than fund more studies and surveys! DOE Yucca Mountain must consider agency regulatory obligation to determine the suitability of the HLRW "permanent" repository. Privatizing the functions of former DOE sites--and DOE functions--appears to create swift changes in circumstances (i.e., social, economic, and technical regional benefits) in a global, competitive marketplace. International "understandings" and cooperative efforts appear to be subject to bottom line corporate profits and losses.

Bethesda, Md. based USEC was a federal agency set up to enrich uranium for commercial nuclear plants. It was

3 cont.

privatized in 1998 to better compete in a global marketplace.

Since being taken public in 1998, the company's stock price has fallen from \$14.25 to \$5.87 in trading Thursday.

USEC officials say while the company is profitable, it is losing money on the Russian contract. The deal was set up by the U.S. government to keep Soviet-era warhead uranium away from rogue nations and terrorists. USEC has bought the uranium equivalent to 3,000 warheads. (IBID., Attachment XII.)

Note that Russia is estimated to have approximately 10,000 nuclear warheads in its arsenal at this time. Foreign policy and foreign trade agreements are not necessarily "interchangeable" without considerable, unanticipated long-term cost. DOE should avoid decisions which de-facto render the Secretary of Energy 'powerless,' see Attachment XII, in Yucca Mountain EIS process and elsewhere. As general observation, DOE and other agencies with readily accessible public records often receive considerable criticism (and lawsuits). The conclusion is rather obvious that fewer federal or state agencies (regulators) with readily accessible public records would reduce citizens' rights to sue--de facto--by eliminating citizens' access to information.

1 cont.

Thank you for opportunity to offer comment. DOE cannot "repair" the considerable inadequacies in democratic process in the Southern region of Ohio, but neither should it sanction tactics that assault the process by doing whatever it takes to get the job done--project(s) sited!

Respectfully submitted,



Diana I. Cahall (f.k.a. Diana Salisbury)

7019 Ashridge Arnheim Road

Sardinia, Ohio 45171

(937) 446-4583 Unpublished telephone and facsimile

Attachments

Via the U.S. Postal Service, priority mail, postage prepaid on 2/8/00.

2/4/00, C-1

EDITOR: DAVID A. WELLS, 768-860

THE CINCINNATI ENQUIRER



CLIFF RADEL

## Democracy flowers best in sunlight

Hamilton County's commissioners made a good decision this week. But they went about it the wrong way.

Their meeting behind closed doors could be illegal. At the very least, it discourages participation in the democratic process. The last thing elected officials should do is cut citizens out of the loop. Do that and democracy dies.

It was on Monday afternoon that the commissioners announced at a press conference their "intentions" — Commissioner Bob Bedinghaus's word — to contribute \$2 million toward putting a deck on Fort Washington Way. The money goes to a \$10 million project to drive the pilings for a deck to support a park over the highway.

The commissioners reached this decision earlier in the day after they closed their doors to the public and went into executive session. "Executive session" is a term lawyers and bureaucrats use to describe a meeting where the public and the press are barred while business is conducted. By law, such meetings are allowed when officials are discussing personnel matters, buying property, court actions, collective bargaining, matters kept confidential by federal, state or local statutes and security arrangements.

On Wednesday, the commissioners voted in public to make official what they had already announced Monday. The vote was two (Bob Bedinghaus and Tom Neyer) to one (John Dowlin).

I have no problem with the commissioners' decision. The county should contribute to putting a deck atop Fort Washington Way. Everyone in the community has a stake in seeing this riverfront development succeed. Everybody in Cincinnati and Hamilton County benefits when city and county officials work together. And, it's great that both entities are seeing eye to eye.

But I am troubled by how the commissioners made their decision.

The way I read Ohio's Open Meetings Act, commissioners can't decide an issue like this in private and then vote on it later in public.

Public issues must be discussed in public first and be open to public debate. The idea behind open meetings law is to keep public business out of smoke-filled rooms, in the open. Call it "intentions" or anything else, I think what our three commissioners did is illegal. Not to mention tacky.

This is a democracy. The people rule. Commissioners are elected. Not born to the job like arrogant kings with divine rights.

Whether the commissioners violated the Open Meetings Act can only be determined in a court of law. Tax opponent Tim Mara is considering filing suit over the commissioners' decision-making process.

### People power

Thursday morning, Bob Bedinghaus tried to assure me everything was on the up-and-up when the commissioners went into executive session.

"Nothing's happening in secret," he said.

I want to believe him. But, not having X-ray vision, I can't be sure.

The intent of the Open Meetings Act is to keep democracy working. Meetings held in the open allow citizens to see and comment on government in action. They learn what motivates an official to vote in a certain way. This reduces the perception and the reality that government makes its decisions behind closed doors. The more people understand the process, the more likely they are to join in.

State Senator Scott Oelslager, from Canton, has sponsored amendments to the Open Meetings Act since 1985. To him, open public meetings "make government more accessible."

"People feel they are part of the process if they can have their voice heard," he added. "They may not get what they want. But if they can speak out at meetings, then they are more likely to feel the system is open to everyone."

"Get people to believe that one vote, one voice, is important; then they believe and take part in democracy."

Democracy needs all the believers it can get. Voter turnout continues to drop like a rock. In Hamilton County last November, only 32 percent of the eligible voters bothered to go to the polls.

With those numbers, voters don't need any more excuses for not casting ballots on Election Day. Rather they need reasons — including the behavior of local officials — to believe that democracy in Hamilton County is government by and for the people.

Columnist Cliff Radel can be reached at 768-8379; fax 768-8340.

7

## Economic Development surveys mailed

By ART HUNTER  
The News Democrat

Six-hundred Brown County residents will be receiving questionnaires in the mail next week from the Brown County Department of Economic Development.

According to Economic Development Department Director Mike Miller, the survey being conducted by his office is the first step in the development of a strategic plan for economic development for the county.

"I want to have more input from the public," Miller says.

See SURVEY / page 3

## FROM THE FRONT PAGE

# Survey: 600 residents randomly selected

continued from page 1

"Growth is inevitable, which we've seen in the villages and in the western part of the county.

"We need to get on track and see how we want things to be developed."

Miller says that the survey is being sent to 600 people chosen at random from county voter registration rolls.

He says that he decided to mail the survey to randomly chosen county residents to get as true a representation as possible of the opinions held on development issues by people in the county.

"Surveys have been done before where the forms have been left in stores for people to pick up and fill out, but you don't get good results that way," Miller said. "We developed a short questionnaire to cause the least inconvenience, but it's really important that they are filled out and returned."

The survey is being conducted to determine how residents feel about issues related to economic development and land usage.

Respondents are asked to rank the importance of issues such as residential growth, industrial and commercial development, preserving agricultural land and open space.

Other questions ask whether the respondent favors or opposes the creation of a county-wide park district, the setting aside of areas for greenbelts, and the adoption of a county-wide zoning code to manage land use.

Miller says that this survey of what Brown Countians want to see happen in the county is the beginning of a year-long process which will produce a plan responding to future development in the county.

"When we have the results of the survey a timetable for public meetings on these issues will be determined," he said.



the Brown County Press, 1/30/00

## County sends surveys to residents this week

### Preparing for growth, countywide pg. 1

By Scott Lanter

It's not a game show, but the latest effort by the county's economic development department is hoping for a show of support from 600 lucky residents who can expect something in their mailboxes this week.

A survey sponsored by the development department is being mailed to select individuals throughout Brown County and the agency's director is keeping his fingers crossed for a good return.

Development Director Mike Miller is mailing the list of 11 questions that focus on the needs, concerns and desires of the county's residents.

"I'm very interested in finding out residents' thoughts on park facilities, recreational activities and future development and growth issues," said Miller.

For example, the first question on the survey asks the recipient to rank what he or she thinks will be the most important development issues facing Brown County during the next ten years.

The choices given for answers are: residential growth; preserving agricultural land; securing adequate public services such as roads, sewer, water, schools; open space, and industrial/commercial. There is also space provided for the recipient's own ranking.

Another question concerns parks and recreation issues.

"How important is it to create parks and recreation facilities in Brown County?" the question asks.

Continued on page 17

## County sends surveys to residents

Continued from page one

The simple questionnaire takes about two minutes to complete and comes with a stamped envelope for easy return.

"It's very important that the surveys are returned to us," Miller said.

The county's Strategic Planning Committee will review the responses and put together a plan to help organize for growth in the county.

Miller said that Mt. Orab is a hot spot for growth and is enjoying the majority of it at the moment.

He also said other areas are now

experiencing spurts of growth and he believes the process has only begun on a road that some fear while others eagerly seek.

With growth comes change and some people don't care for change, but Miller says the benefits to be gained from growth in Brown County are enormous.

"These surveys will be the start of what I believe is the dawn of a new day for Brown County," said Miller.

He says recipients of the surveys can expect them before Friday, Feb. 4.

**Adams Unemployment**

Adams County (9.3%) was among the 10 counties in Ohio to have above 8% unemployment during December. Vinton 13.8, Meigs 11.1, Monroe 10.1, Noble 9, Hocking 8.9, Scioto 8.7, Pike 8.2 and Otway 8.0. Brown was 5.4% and Highland 4.4%.

**MANCHESTER****MATTERS****By Mayor Cornelia Detmer**

Perhaps the recent prolonged severe cold numbs your brain as well as the waterpipes. It seems that I could not get anything really exciting going. The one highlight this past week was a visit by Gary Little, Community Development Specialist, from Corporation for Ohio Appalachian Development (we sure are lucky to be part of Appalachia with the new Governor placing so much emphasis on helping us to improve our lives).

He presented the Village with a certificate from the COAD proclaiming us a Project Good START Community. Remember that

*Continued On Page 5***MANCHESTER** from page 1

Community survey we filled out a year ago? This data has been analysed and now is available at the Clerk's Office as a "Report to the Community". START stands for Small Town Assessment and Readiness Techniques. It is part of the Ohio Rural Enterprise Project (OREP-I told you I had to learn all these initials which people make into catchy pseudowords that are suppose to stick in our minds!) which encourages us to support small business in and around our community as a foundation for future growth.

The report addresses how to go about accomplishing the priority projects identified by the citizens. The immediate goals are: 1. Community clean up and fix up 2. River related business development 2. Youth programs and rec-

reaction.

On Thursday, Feb. 10, my monthly Mayors Night will host a Town Meeting in the Community Building at 7 p.m. It will be an opportunity for you to express your thoughts on our economic development. Andy Culbertson will attend to update us on MACA Plastics. The Economic Development Committee of the Council is chaired by Barry Bell and includes Laura Reaves, Wayne Frye, Fred Edgington, and Terry Ayers. Other members are being recruited.

I would like to invite our senior citizens to take advantage of the noon meal served daily at the Community Center. It provides not only nourishment but a chance to visit with friends. I understand that if attendance does not improve, we are in danger of losing this valuable service.

**COOKIES**—from page 1

Although Seal of Ohio Girl Scout Council is helping girls leap to the future, the price of supporting the world's largest and longest running bake sale has remained the same. 2000 marks the eighth year in a row in which boxes of Girl Scout Cookies have remained an affordable \$2.50 each.

Adams County Girl Scouts of Seal of Ohio Council hit the pavement on Jan. 29 to collect orders for Girl Scout Cookies. If not contacted by a Girl Scout to order cookies, you may call 1-800-886-2579 and we will be glad to assist you. Delivery and direct sales will take place from Mar. 20 to Apr. 9.

Customers can choose from eight traditional favorites.

**LAND TRANSFERS**

Eugene W. and Phyllis Osborne to Mary Jane Osborne, 3.919 acres, Green.

Linda L. Jamison to Fred L. and Judy E. Sullivan, 11.500 acres, Scott.

James J. and Melissa Garcia to Sonja L. Cowdrey, 2.913 acres, Tiffin.

## Rural Revitalization Task Force Regional Hearing

Region: OVRDC, Southern Ohio

Date: February 15, 2000

Time: 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Place: OSU Piketon Research and Extension Center, S.R. 32 east of U.S. 23 intersection

The Ohio General Assembly last year in the biennium budget asked the Department of Development to create a Rural Revitalization Task Force that "shall coordinate an effort to determine potential opportunities to enhance economic development activities in distressed rural counties." Ms. Joy Padgett, Director of the Governor's Office of Appalachia (GOA), is taking the lead in this planning effort working closely with Randy Hunt, Executive Director of the Ohio Rural Development Partnership.

The first phase of the effort will include a series of four regional hearings around the state, which will focus on gathering input in each region of the state in regards to what the most important issues or needs are for rural development. A hearing will be held in each of the Appalachian Local Development District's (LDD's), who will each coordinate a hearing. An additional hearing will be held in the Mansfield area to reach the distressed counties of northcentral Ohio. The results of the hearing will be summarized and presented as a report to the Governor at the end of Phase I.

OVRDC is pleased to host the first regional hearing on February 15, 2000, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the OSU Piketon Research and Extension Center just off S.R. 32 east of the intersection with U.S. 23. We will be assisted at this hearing by the staff of the Ohio University Institute for Local Government and Rural Development (ILGARD).

All local officials, organizations, businesses, and the public in the OVRDC region who are interested in discussing the region's development needs are welcome to attend this session. There will be a short introduction of the process, led by GOA Director Padgett, and then the meeting will break into groups by interest areas, where everyone will have a chance to express themselves regarding what they see as the regions needs.

Please join us in this first phase of identifying regional development needs for our region. We would like your input in identifying the region's needs as well as our best opportunities for future development.



EIS001424

# OVRDC Quarterly

News of the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission

Vol. 2 No. 4

Winter 2000

## ***Davida Flannery Retires from OVRDC after 15 Years of Service***

Davida Flannery recently announced she was retiring from the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission (OVRDC) after fifteen years of service to the region. Ms. Flannery began working at OVRDC on October 16, 1984, as a secretary; she later moved to Community Development Planner and ended her career as Community Development Director. Ms. Flannery retired on PERS disability effective the end of November 1999.

Ms. Flannery worked with several different programs including Appalachian Regional Commission, Community Development Block Grants, Rural Development and many others. Over the years Ms. Flannery assisted many communities in getting funding for water and sewer projects, road improvement projects, downtown revitalization projects, community buildings, emergency equipment and industrial parks. Ms. Flannery worked extensively with the Village of Ripley and with the Adams County Commissioners on projects.

OVRDC held a special reception on December 27, 1999, which honored Ms. Flannery. Local officials made several special presentations that evening. OVRDC Chairman Bob Proud presented a signed Ruthven print on behalf of the Commission, and Executive Director Jeff Spencer and Assistant Director John Hemmings praised Ms. Flannery for her development work for the region.

Several local officials presented Ms. Flannery awards or comments in recognition of her service. These included: the Brown County Commissioners, the Village of Russellville, Adams County Commissioners, Union Township, and the Village of Ripley. In addition, Randy Hunt, Executive Director of the Ohio Rural Development Partnership, presented Ms. Flannery with a Kinkadee print and praised her for her service. OVRDC would like to thank the Thompson House Gallery for contributing the framing costs for the Ruthven print. We all wish Davida a happy and enjoyable retirement. ☺

## ***Appalachian Intermodal Transportation Study***

An Appalachian Intermodal Transportation Grant was recently awarded to the three Local Development Districts (LDD's) in Ohio: Ohio Mid-Eastern Governments Association (OMEGA), Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District (BH-HVRDD), and the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission (OVRDC).

A proposal was created by OMEGA and a consultant and submitted to ARC. Activities included in the proposal are: 1) an overview of the present status of commercial transportation along the Ohio River; 2) a review of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Ohio River Inland Port Reconnaissance Study which focused on the identification of potential intermodal industrial sites in Ohio that were adjacent to the river; 3) the development of a strategy to help bring about consensus on Ohio River intermodal development activities; 4) the development of an outline for an industrial marketing program for the Ohio River region; 5) contact and partnership building with public and private sector entities representing other modes of transportation (air, highway, and rail) that would be vital participants in any Ohio River focused activity; and 6) a review of comparable river based intermodal sites in other areas of the country that have been successful in attracting new industry, creating jobs, and increasing overall river related commercial/industrial shipping and commerce.

*(See Intermodal on page 3)*

Robert Proud, Chairman  
Ponney Cisco, Vice-Chairman  
Jerry Oney, Treasurer

Jeffrey Spencer, Executive Director  
Michele Throckmorton, Editor

12

## ***TEA-21 Recreational Trails Program FY 1998 and 1999 Allocations***

The TEA-21 Recreational Trails Program (RTP) recently authorized projects selected for funding from Ohio's FY 1998 and 1999 allocations. The total amount of federal funding for these projects is \$1,720,006. Of that amount, three counties in the OVRDC district were approved to receive \$184,000. The projects to receive funding are:

County	Project	Applicant	\$ Recommended
Jackson	Richland Furnace State Forest APV Area Equipment	ODNR, Division of Forestry	\$55,000
Pike	Pike State Forest APV Area Equipment	ODNR, Division of Forestry	\$53,000
Ross	Adena Recreational Trail Development	Ross County Park District	\$76,000

The RTP is identified as a statewide line item in ODOT's FY 2000-2003 STIP and your current TIP. If you have any questions or would like more information contact William E. Daehler, Jr. at (614) 265-6402. ☐

### ***Ohio Arts Council Announces Appalachian Grant Program***

The Ohio Arts Council has announced a new grant program available to organizations in any of Ohio's 29 Appalachian counties and to the urban Appalachian populations in Columbus, Dayton, and Cincinnati. The program, known as OAC's Appalachian Arts Program, replaces the Ohio Appalachian Arts Initiative.

Grants will be available "to support projects that place the arts at the heart of community and economic development efforts in their communities." Organizations may request up to \$2,000 and will be required to show a 25% match of cash, in-kind services, or a combination of both. Grant application deadlines are January 15, 2000 and July 1, 2000.

For additional information or to obtain a grant application form, contact Donna Sue Groves, P.O. Box 30, West Union, Ohio 45693. Her phone number is (937) 549-2131 or e-mail her at [dsgroves@bright.net](mailto:dsgroves@bright.net).



### ***United States Department of Agriculture Grants and Loans Available***

A new and improved grant and loan program is being offered through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Rural Utilities Service (RUS).

The RUS has amended the regulations concerning the Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) program to include expanded uses for the loan funds. The RUS Distance Learning and Telemedicine grant and loan program will assist in providing modern telecommunications interconnectivity to educational and medical facilities in rural areas. Eligible entities are those who provide or will provide educational or health care services through the use of advanced telecommunications.

Applicants for grants and loans will compete nationally for \$13 million in grants and \$200 million in loans. The maximum amount of financial assistance available for each applicant in FY 2000 is \$350,000 grant and \$10,000,000 loan.

Grant applications are due by March 14, 2000. An Application Guide and more information on the DLT program can be obtained on the Internet at: [www.usda.gov/rus/dlt/dlml.htm](http://www.usda.gov/rus/dlt/dlml.htm) or by calling James Cogan at (614) 255-2420. Information can also be obtained from George Schweighofer, RUS General Field Representative at (614) 860-9732. ☐

## Upcoming Events

### February

02/03/2000 – 6 p.m. Gallia County Caucus, Commissioners Office  
 02/07/2000 – 2:30 p.m. Pike County Caucus, Commissioners Office  
 02/08/2000 – 2:30 p.m. Scioto County Caucus, Dept. of Human Services  
 02/08-09/2000 – Intermodal Transportation Planning Conference, Roanoke, VA  
 02/10/2000 – 2:30 p.m. District 15 Small Governments Meeting, Waverly  
 02/11/2000 – 8:30a.m.-3p.m. Business First Workshop and OVRDC Minority Caucus Meeting @ PIDC, Portsmouth  
 02/14/2000 – 11 a.m. Ross County Caucus, Commissioners Office  
 02/14/2000 – ♥♥ Happy Valentine's Day ♥♥  
 02/17/2000 – 2:30 p.m. OVRDC Executive Committee Meeting, Waverly  
 02/21/2000 – Office Closed President's Day  
 02/22/2000 – 1 p.m. Lawrence County Caucus, Commissioners Office  
 02/23/2000 – 10:30 a.m. Highland County Caucus, Commissioners Office  
 02/24/2000 – 5 p.m. District 15 Executive Committee & Full Integrating Committee meeting @ Comfort Inn, Piketon  
 02/28/2000 – 11 a.m. Vinton County Caucus, Commissioners Office  
 02/28-03/2000 – Ohio Economic Development Course, Holiday Inn, Worthington

### March

03/06/2000 – 1:30 p.m. Brown County Caucus, Commissioners Office  
 03/13/2000 – 10:30 a.m. Fayette County Caucus, Commissioners Office  
 03/13/2000 – 10 a.m.-3 p.m. E-commerce meeting, Columbus  
 03/17/2000 – ♣♣ Happy St. Patrick's Day ♣♣  
 03/19-21/2000 – DDAA Annual Meeting, Washington D.C.  
 03/23/2000 – OVRDC Executive Committee Meeting, Brown County  
 03/23/2000 – OVRDC Full Commission Meeting & Dinner, Brown County

### April

04/05-07/2000 – EDA Regional Conference, Chicago, IL  
 04/09-11/2000 – Washington Policy Conference, Washington D.C.  
 04/11/2000 – 10 a.m.-2p.m. OARC Meeting, Waverly  
 04/19/2000 – 10 a.m. Environmental Task Force Meeting, Waverly  
 04/20/2000 – 2:30 p.m. OVRDC Executive Committee Meeting, Waverly  
 04/26-27/2000 – OCCD Spring Meeting, Worthington

### (Intermodal continued from page 1)

Other goals related to this project through ARC funding include: 1) the establishment of various partnerships that will help facilitate the development and efficient operation of intermodal sites and activities throughout the Ohio River region. As indicated above, such partnerships may include public and private entities and be interstate or intrastate in nature; 2) the completion of at least two workshops or seminars that will provide information about intermodal activities and solicit input about the direction our intermodal planning efforts should take; and 3) information generated goals one and two will help to provide the necessary research and database for us to seek more substantial planning and development funding through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Intermodal Planning Grant program.

The goal of this project is to increase industrial/commercial traffic along the Ohio River that will establish intermodal facilities and economic activities. Such growth can result in the creation of new jobs and provide a wide array of economic, social, and community benefits to the region. ☺

## OVRDC Job Openings

Beginning February 1, 2000, the OVRDC will have two job openings available.

Kurtis Strickland, who worked as Community Development Specialist, left in December, 1999 to take another position with Ohio Rural Communities Assistance Program; and Kate Sherman, GIS Specialist, is leaving to work part-time at Shawnee State University.

The Community Development Specialist's primary responsibilities include technical assistance ranging from financial packaging to project construction to communities and agencies within the OVRDC district with Community Development Block Grant and other infrastructure-related programs. Also responsible for assigned work program tasks as directed by supervisor. Bachelor's or associate's degree in planning, public or business administration, political or social science or related field with at least one-to-three years of related work experience; or an equivalent combination of education and experience.

The GIS Specialist's primary responsibilities include developing and implementing OVRDC's Geographic Information System mapping, as well as for providing research support, including statistics, tables, and graphics for OVRDC members and staff, as well as major reports and plans of OVRDC. Also responsible for assigned work program tasks as directed by supervisor. Bachelor's or associate's degree in geography, geology, social science, planning, or related field with at least one-to-three years of related work experience; or an equivalent combination of education and experience.

Submit cover letter, resume, and three references to arrive by 4:30 p.m. on February 11, 2000 to Assistant Director, Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission, P.O. Box 728, Waverly, Ohio 45690-0728.

The OVRDC is "An Equal Opportunity Employer". ☺

**OVRDC Quarterly** Newsletter  
 The Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission  
 P.O. Box 728  
 Waverly, OH 45690-0728

BULK RATE  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
 WAVERLY, OHIO  
 45690  
 Permit No. 4

## *In This Issue...*

Davida Flannery Retires from OVRDC.....	Page 1
Appalachian Intermodal Transportation Study.....	Page 1
Recreational Trails Program.....	Page 2
Ohio Arts Council Appalachian Grants.....	Page 2
USDA Grants and Loans Available.....	Page 2
Upcoming Events.....	Page 3
OVRDC Job Openings.....	Page 3
March 2000 Full Commission Meeting.....	Page 4

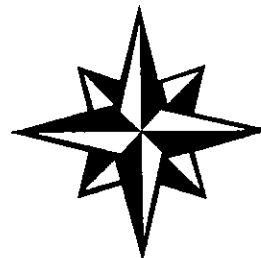
*Need to contact us?*

Phone: (740) 947-2853 or  
 toll-free in Ohio @ 1-800-223-7491  
 Fax: (740) 947-3468  
 e-mail: [email@ovrdc.org](mailto:email@ovrdc.org)

## *March 2000 Full Commission Meeting*

Thanks to Brown County Commissioner Dale Reynolds and Brown County Economic Development Director Mike Miller for locating a site for the March 2000 Full Commission Dinner Meeting and Election of Officers. The meeting will be held March 23, 2000, at the Gateway Center, located on the Southern State Community College campus in Sardinia on U.S. 62 north of S.R. 32.

The OVRDC Executive Committee will be meeting at the Gateway Center before the Full Commission Meeting on March 23. Meeting times and other information will be mailed to all OVRDC members in February. ☺



# Mission to Japan piles up prospects

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2000

BY JOHN BYCZKOWSKI  
The Cincinnati Enquirer

OSAKA, Japan — At a luncheon in Tokyo earlier this week, David Smith of Cinergy Corp. exchanged business cards with a high-ranking officer of a Japanese company.

From the start, the officer said what every red-blooded American economic development pro wants to hear: "We're considering a location in the U.S. for a plant." Bells went off.

"Maybe you ought to consider Cincinnati," Mr. Smith said to the officer.

And so he will. That's but one prize the Greater Cincinnati contingent has found on Ohio Gov. Bob Taft's trade mission to Japan this week.

Those on the mission say that despite the weakness of the economy here, a number of Japanese companies appear to be willing to make investments in U.S. operations.

Mr. Smith and Neil Hensley of the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce said they came to Japan to meet three companies, but found three more solid prospects, and also heard from two companies with operations in Cincinnati that are considering expansions.

Showing up in Japan seems to be half the battle. "They really appreciated us being here," said J. Patrick Bell, a Fifth Third Bank senior vice president who oversees international banking. "I really didn't expect there to be sales opportunities. I thought (the calls on clients) would be more good will. It seems you always come back with something."

Mr. Smith, Cinergy's director of economic development, said he met the prospect at a meeting Tuesday between the trade mission and the Keidanren, a high-profile alliance of Japan's top business leaders. The company has several offices in the United States and wants to combine them at one location.

He said the company wants its salespeople to be able to travel easily, and it wants to ship its products easily. He told the company's officer about the airport in Cincinnati, and the

(Please see MISSION,  
Page A6)

## Mission: Prospects bright for Japanese investments

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1 consolidate operations into a single office.

Of Mr. Hensley's three scheduled visits, one company has already decided to put an office in Northern Kentucky and will visit the region next week. It's a small office, but those can evolve into bigger operations, said Sheila Spradlin, who is marketing manager for Fifth Third Bank's international division.

In addition, Mr. Hensley said he learned that another company — also with existing operations in Greater Cincinnati — has decided to go ahead with an expansion. He said the chamber has been dealing with the company for 18 months, and he met a company officer casually at the Ohio-Japan reception Tuesday.

The Greater Cincinnati contingent — people from the chamber of commerce, Cinergy Corp., Fifth Third Bank and Firstar Corp. — sticks together pretty tightly. When two talk about getting a prospect, it's likely that they're talking about the same company.

And they know the routine: Plug the airport, plug the rea-

sonable cost of doing business, plug the quality of life.

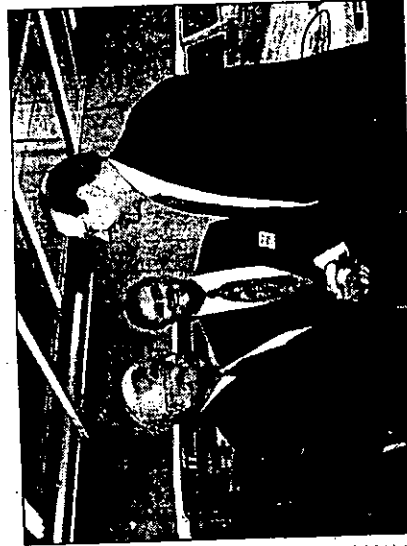
The Japanese media's coverage of the governor's trip has drawn the attention of some clients, said Randolph Chavez, a Cincinnati-based senior vice president for international corporate banking at Firstar Corp.

TV news programs showed the dogwood trees he brought from Ohio, duplicating a gift from his great-grandfather, President William Howard Taft. Several of Mr. Chavez's clients commented on it.

"They were very, very pleased Gov. Taft had come over to continue that tradition," he said.

Despite an economy struggling to emerge from a long recession, some companies are doing well enough to expand. Ohio is helped by the fact that Japan's two largest automakers — Honda and Toyota — have big operations in the region and are expanding in the United States.

Mr. Hensley said it's beginning to make sense for smaller parts suppliers to open U.S. operations.



The Associated Press/Katsumi Kasahara  
Toyohashi Mayor Masaru Hayakawa (left) greets Gov. Bob Taft at a DaimlerChrysler plant in central Japan. Timothy Suchyta (center) is the director of the plant.

"They can justify the expense of setting up a U.S. operation," he said.

Those companies will find workers by putting their plants in the right locations. Also, some of Ohio's highest unemployment rates are found in southern Ohio east of Clermont County. Brown County has a new 500-acre free trade zone, and that could be attractive to some companies, he said.

The governor's trade mission will end Sunday.

Mr. Hensley said he tells those companies that many workers commute up to an hour

VII



# Sheriff dismisses another candidate, two still on staff

## Crawford refuses to discuss future of Green and Snider

By Scott Lanter P4: 1

A third candidate seeking to unseat Brown County Sheriff Windell Crawford has been terminated.

Jay Anderson, a Democratic candidate for sheriff was reportedly released as a special deputy on Jan. 20.

In a telephone interview with Crawford last Tuesday, Jan. 25, Sheriff Crawford said he mailed Anderson a letter informing him of his termination as a special deputy.

Crawford said he mailed the letter

on Jan. 20, but Anderson didn't learn of his dismissal until he read about it in the Jan. 23, edition of *The Brown County Press*.

Crawford was asked last week about the future of Mickey Green, a jailer at the department, who is seek-

ing a seat on the Democratic Central Committee and about Kenneth "Duke" Snider, a Democratic candidate for the Ohio Senate and a deputy for the sheriff's department.

When Crawford was asked what

Continued on page 17

## Four towns affected by power outage

### Officials concerned about residents' safety

By Scott Lanter

An electrical outage affecting four villages last week has caused officials to begin preparing for possible future predicaments.

The Brown County Emergency Management Agency was con-

cerned when the power failure was reported on Jan. 24, by residents in Ripley, Mt. Orab, Russellville and Georgetown.

Jane Cahall, the county's EMA director, said the first thought that entered her mind was the elderly and how they would keep warm.

She contacted Commissioner

Continued on page 17

## Sheriff dismisses another candidate, two still on staff

Continued from page one  
he planned to do with Green and Snider he said, "Whatever I want."

He then ended the conversation abruptly by stating that he didn't want to talk about the issue anymore.

Two other opponents are also gone from the department; Detective Lieutenant Forrest "Buddy" Coburn and Deputy Dwayne Wenninger.

Coburn was fired by Crawford on Dec. 30, one week after he filed his candidacy for sheriff. Coburn is a Democrat.

Wenninger has been gone from the department since Sept. 7, but Crawford says the deputy quit his job. Wenninger says he did not resign, but was terminated by the Sheriff.

Coburn's wife, Vicky, was also fired as a special deputy by the sheriff on Jan. 7.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Coburn have since been offered positions as auxiliary officers on the Georgetown Police Department in order to maintain their required certification. Both have accepted the positions.

Wenninger is operating his own home construction business and is a Republican candidate for sheriff.

Anderson remains the chief bailiff for Brown County Common Pleas Court.

Crawford defends his right to terminate those who are running against him in the March 7 primary election, citing an Ohio Revised Code law that gives the sheriff the option of terminating any employee who is involved in politics other than voting.

The Ohio Attorney General has issued an opinion saying the law is "discretionary and not mandatory."

\*\*\*

# second deputy relieved

Sheriff uses  
authority to fire  
opposition

By ROBERT WHITED  
The News Democrat 1/27/00  
A-1

A second Brown County Sheriff Deputy is now out of work after declaring his candidacy for Sheriff.

Deputy Lt. Detective Forrest "Buddy"

Coburn, was recently released by Crawford

after Coburn filed his petition to run for Sheriff on Dec. 23.

Coburn, a Democrat, has been with the Sheriff's Department for 12 years

Crawford, Sheriff since 1992 and a Democrat, has fired two deputies after they announced their plans to run for Sheriff.

Deputy Dwayne Wenninger, a Republican, was fired after the Ohio Tobacco Festival in September, after riding on a float in the parade declaring his candidacy for Sheriff.

Wenninger said he was given a choice by Crawford, either resign his deputy's job or be fired. Sheriff Crawford commented that he never terminated Wenninger, "he quit, how many times do I have to tell him that?" Wenninger said he never quit or resigned his job and has never submitted a letter of resignation that would lead the Sheriff to believe he did resign or quit his job as a deputy.

Coburn has 15 years in with the department.

"I have no bad feelings toward Windell for what he did. He has the power, but I don't think it was necessary to terminate me or Wenninger," said Coburn.

Coburn's wife Vickie, a special deputy with the Brown County Sheriff's Department for almost 15 years, has been terminated.

Crawford told *The News Democrat* that both men were relieved of duty for conflict of interest. Crawford said, "They were released because campaigning would take time and attention away from their work duties and investigations."

Please see DEPUTY / A3



CRAWFORD

EIS001424

THE NEWS DEMOCRAT THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 2000 A3

## Deputy: Coburn relieved of duties

continued from page 1

Crawford had no comment on Mrs. Coburn's status other than "I did it because I can."

Jay Anderson, D, has also filed a petition for the sheriff's job. Anderson is a bailiff at the Common Pleas Court in Georgetown and was appointed to the job by Common Pleas Judge William Stapleton.

According to an Ohio Attorney General's opinion, when a judge appoints a bailiff he becomes a sheriff's deputy, but serves at the pleasure of the court, not the sheriff. Anderson, so far, has retained his job.

According to the Ohio Revised Code, the sheriff has the authority to fire any public servant who participates in

partisan political activities other than voting. He is not required to fire the individual or individuals but can if he so chooses.

Crawford has two other deputies that have also filed petitions for election yet have not been fired or relieved of their duties as a sheriff's deputy.

Former Brown County Commissioner Mickey Green is a jailer and is seeking a spot on the Democratic Central Committee for Pleasant Township.

Deputy Kenneth "Duke" Snider is a deputy at the Brown County Alternative School and has filed to run for the Ohio Senate seat now held by Senator Doug White.

THURSDAY

January 27, 2000

A4

210 So. Main St.  
Georgetown, Ohio 45121  
PHONE: (937) 378-6161  
FAX: (937) 378-2004

**O** "Opinion"  
The News  
Democrat

## OUR OPINION

# Take politics out of the Sheriff's office

**T**he news of personnel related moves in the Brown County Sheriff's Department should not come as any big surprise.

Sheriff Windell Crawford let go long-time Deputy Buddy Coburn after he announced he was running against Crawford in the March Democratic primary.

Coburn did not seem too terribly surprised. These type of dealings are pretty common in local politics today, especially in Ohio's county sheriff races.

Crawford did what many others have done in similar positions. Granted it is difficult to have someone working against you in your employ, but surely these matters could be set aside for the good of the county.

There also has been some controversy about another candidate, Dwayne Wenninger, and his departure. Wenninger is a Republican candidate for Sheriff.

The real losers in this political foray are the citizens of Brown County. It just seems that political differences could be set aside while the process runs its course.

There should be no politics in the workplace anyway. Not for Coburn. Not for Wenninger. Not even for Crawford. It should be business as usual during election time. Even law officers should be entitled to personal lives where such political activity should be limited.

The concern of the Sheriff's Department should be for the citizens which it serves. Losing experienced law enforcement officers can't be good for the department or for Brown County residents.

Thursday, February 3, 2000

*The Redger Independent*

# Brown County 911 Coordinator fired

By T. J. TUCKER  
Staff Writer

Brown County Emergency 911 Coordinator Kelly King, who has held the job since March of 1994, has been dismissed by the Brown County Board of Commission.

"During the month of January, 2000, you have been insubordinate in failing to carry out directives by the Board of Commissioners. Your actions have destroyed the board's confidence in you being able to discharge the duties of your position for which you were hired to perform," said a letter to King dated, Jan. 31, and signed by board chairman Kirby Cornett, vice chairman Jim Ferguson and member Dale Reynolds.

"Your position is one of special trust and relationship with the board. You have not only been charged with a fiduciary relationship, but one of extreme confidence to the your exposure and monitoring 911 calls. The commissioners no longer have the necessary trust in you required by your position," said the letter.

King was directed to turn in all equipment and to leave on the same day.

King responded to the firing in the following news release on Wednesday.

"On Monday, Jan. 31, I was approached by all three Brown County Commissioners and their consultant Bob Cross. I was given the option of resigning or being terminated. I chose to have them terminate me," King said.

"The commissioners were involved in the day-to-day workings of our 911 from its beginning. They turned it over to the sheriff, who then turned it back to the commissioners, who began to initiate changes which I suspected would lead to this outcome.

"I would like to thank the citizens of Brown County for their support in

departments, life squads and police agency, whom in my heart, I actually worked for.

"I found out early if you help them provide their districts with better service, everything else falls into place. While volunteers are becoming harder to come by, Brown County is blessed to have them in addition to some very dedicated police officers.

"Thanks to the dispatchers who actually do work in the 'trenches,' working rotating shifts and getting help to those in need. Thank you for supporting me early in 1995, when we put our 911 system on line as we encountered political, practical and personal problems. The patience and support of each member of the E-911 team made possible a real communications system for the people of Brown County.

"I am human and have made mistakes. I was hired to run our 911, which has been difficult for reasons many of you have known through the years. I have worked hard, was on call 24-hours a day, seven days a week and gave 110 percent. I believe the citizens of Brown County know this. I am a very, very poor politician.

"I like the simple life, raising a big vegetable garden, working on my old, rusty Bronco and volunteering on the life squads to help others. God forbid I ever change.

"I have learned if you work hard and try to do a good job, there are always some people who are jealous and want to cut you down. I was warned of this back in 1995, and you were right... so right.

"Thanks again for your patience, trust and blessings. It has been my privilege to work for the citizens of Brown County to establish a 911 system for the health, safety and protection of all."

King has received recognition in news releases and ground breaking

Continued from Page 1B

for being instrumental in getting the 911 system up-and-running and working to make the county's new 911 facility with state-of-the-art technology a reality.

The commissioners declined to comment on record what directive King refused to follow, as did King. Nor would the commissioners add any comment to the letter of termination on file in their office.

The vote to terminate was unanimous with all three members voting in favor of the termination, according to county record.

XL

THE CINCINNATI ENQUIRER

A14 FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2000

## Military ruler wants Clinton to visit Pakistan

The Washington Post

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Pakistan's military ruler said Thursday he wants to "help solve the problem" of fugitive Saudi terrorist suspect Osama bin Laden. He said he is "actively considering" a trip to discuss the issue with the radical Islamic regime of neighboring Afghanistan, where Mr. bin Laden lives.

In a wide-ranging discussion with a small group of foreign visitors, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, 53, also said it would be "regrettable" if President Clinton decided not to visit Pakistan during his scheduled trip to South Asia next month. He said that could encourage Indian military aggression against Pakistan, its longtime rival.

"To put it crudely, they (the Indians) might feel that Pakistan had been ditched," he said, referring to his country as a "50-year ally" of the United States. If Mr. Clinton visits only India,



P. Musharraf Gen. Musharraf added, "it would encourage them to increase tensions" along the militarized border that divides Kashmir between India and Pakistan.

The White House has not yet decided whether to add Pakistan to Clinton's regional trip, which includes five days in India.

In the 90-minute meeting in his office with an American journalist and foreign academics, Gen. Musharraf again rejected U.S. calls to schedule a return to democracy, saying he does not intend to leave power until he has achieved his goals.

4A: The Enrichment Corporation, Mayeville, Ky., Friday, February 4, 2000

# USEC to lay off 850 workers in Ohio, Kentucky

By KATHERINE RIZZO

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The company that owns and operates the nation's only two uranium enrichment plants said Thursday it will lay off 850 workers in Kentucky and Ohio, about 22 percent of its work force.

"We regret having to take this action," said Charles Yulish, a vice president of U.S. Enrichment Corp. "This is because of a global supply of enrichment and strong global competition."

USEC has been hurt by falling prices for enriched uranium, which is used to fuel nuclear power plants. The company also is losing money on a deal to buy Russia's uranium stockpile and sell it to utility companies worldwide.

USEC said it will keep both plants open, even though neither one runs at capacity.

About 1,700 people work at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant in Kentucky and 2,100 at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant in Piketon, Ohio. The plant in Piketon is one of southern Ohio's largest employers.

About 250 workers at each plant accepted buyout offers last year. It will again ask for volunteers before imposing involuntary layoffs, a move designed to save \$39 million a year in production costs.

The layoffs are to be divided equally between the plants, the company said in a statement.

"I'm trying to stay optimistic if I can," said Dan Minter, president of the Piketon, Ohio, chapter of the Paper, Allied-Industrial, Chemical and Energy Workers International Union, which represents Portsmouth plant workers.

"We will attempt to find transition work with the Department of Energy and seek an enhanced benefit package" for the people scheduled to lose their jobs beginning in July.

Last week, Energy Secretary Bill Richardson traveled to both uranium plants to announce plans to seek extra cleanup funds

for the upcoming fiscal year. Both plants are heavily contaminated, with cleanup expected to take many years, so those jobs are viewed as a stable replacement for the lost positions on the production lines.

Richardson issued a statement saying he disagreed with the layoffs but was powerless to stop them.

The company said it also intended to reduce costs at its headquarters in Bethesda, Md., but no management layoffs were announced.

Rep. Ted Strickland, D-Ohio, whose southern Ohio district includes Piketon, said he would urge the Clinton administration to scrutinize whether the company will be able to honor its commitment to maintain a domestic

supply of enriched uranium.

"They are reducing the work force very significantly in a very rapid period of time," he said. "Is that consistent with their obligation?"

Bethesda, Md.-based USEC was a federal agency set up to enrich uranium for commercial nuclear plants. It was privatized in 1998 to better compete in a global market.

Since being taken public in 1998, the company's stock price has fallen from \$14.25 to \$5.87 in trading Thursday.

USEC officials say while the company is profitable, it is losing money on the Russian contract. The deal was set up by the U.S. government to keep Soviet-era warhead uranium away from rogue nations and terrorists. USEC has bought the uranium equivalent to 3,000 warheads.

## FUNERAL DIRECTORY

For your convenience

KENTUCKY

E  
N  
T  
R  
Y  
D  
O  
O  
R  
S  
•  
W